

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

SCI-06 AEC-11 SPM-01 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08 TAR-02

TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02 OMB-01 SWF-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNGA EGEN GU

SUBJ: UNGA SPECIAL SESSION: GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT OF
GUYANA FOREIGN MINISTER APRIL 15

SUMMARY: GUYANAN FONMIN RAMPHAL IN LENGTHY, POWERFUL AND
UNCOMPROMISING SPEECH CELEBRATED THE OPEC COUNTRIES AS
NOT THE SOURCE OF CRISIS BUT RATHER THE CATALYST OF A
HEALTHY NEW WORLD AWARENESS OF FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES
IN THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND BASIC INTER-
DEPENDENCE AMONG ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD INCLUDING THE
DEVELOPED. IN A DEPARTURE FROM HIS PREPARED SPEECH,
EVEDENTLY RESPONDING TO A STATEMENT IN THE SECRETARY'S
SPEECH, HE SAID IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF ONE BLOCK TRYING
TO DETERMINE UNILATERALLY THE FUTURE BUT RATHER A QUESTION
OF ALL COUNTRIES DECIDING THAT THE FUTURE MUST BE
REDETERMINED. HE BLAMED THE RICH NATIONS AND THE
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM AS IT NOW EXISTS FOR THE PLIGHT
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OF THE POOR COUNTRIES AND MADE IT CLEAR THAT THERE WAS,

IN HIS MIND, NO EASY WAY OUT. IN A WORLD OF FINITE RESOURCES THE GAP BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR COULD NOT BE CLOSED WITHOUT SACRIFICES ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HAVING EMBELLISHED ON THESE POINTS ELOQUENTLY AND AT LENGTH RAMPHAL JUST AS ELOQUENTLY MADE THE POINT AT THE END OF HIS SPEECH, HOWEVER, THAT WHILE THE OPEC POLICIES HAD BEEN A HEALTHY CATALYST THEY ALSO HAD HAD A DEVASTATING ECONOMIC EFFECT ON A NUMBER OF LESS FORTUNATE LDC'S INCLUDING GUYANA. HE THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED AS THE ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION A REDISTRIBUTION OF SOME OF THE OPEC COUNTRIES' NEW INCOME ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS TO THE LESS FORTUNATE LDC'S AND URGED AT THE SAME TIME THAT ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES NOT DECREASE.
END SUMMARY

1. RAMPHAL STARTED BY NOTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN INNUMERABLE MEETINGS OF THE SPECIALIZED ORGANIZATIONS ON THE SAME GENERAL SUBJECT OVER MANY YEARS BUT ONLY WHEN THE PETROLEUM SITUATION HAD BROUGHT A NEW AWARENESS OF INTERDEPENDENCE TO THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WAS THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GA CALLED TO CONSIDER WHAT AMOUNTED TO A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS. THIS WAS ALL TO THE GOOD IN SPITE OF THE BURDEN THAT INCREASED PETROLEUM PRICES PLACED ON SOME LDC'S AS WELL AS DC'S.

2. HE RECALLED AN ADDRESS WHICH HE HAD MADE SOME SIX MONTHS AGO AT THE UN IN WHICH HE HAD PLEADED FOR MASSIVE ASSISTANCE TO THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. HE SAID THAT THE LDC'S CANNOT LIVE BY PROMISES WITH ACTION FOREVER DEFERRED. HE SAID THAT HE HAD LOST FAITH IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY IN VIEW OF REDUCED ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, DECLINING RATE OF GROWTH IN MANY LDC'S AND THE FACT THAT THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC SYSTEM UNTIL NOW HAD SO FAVORED THE WEALTHY COUNTRIES AND BEEN A CAUSE OF THE BACKWARDNESS OF THE POOR. THIS SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GA WAS AND A PLACE TO DISCUSS THE WORLD DEVELOPMENT ISSUES ANEW.

3. HE EXPLAINED HIS THEORY THAT POWERFUL FORCES IN THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM HAD UNTIL NOW KEPT PRICES OF PRIMARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRODUCTS DOWN WHILE PRICES OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS INCREASED "ON THE BASIS OF INVOICES". ONE REASON WAS THAT HUMAN INPUT DID NOT HAVE AS MUCH REMUNERATION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AS IT DID IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES.

4. HE WENT ON TO ASSERT THAT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE MULTINATIONAL COMPANIES MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER RIGOROUS

INTERNATIONALLY SCRUTINY AND CONTROL. HE SAID THAT OPEC'S ACTIVITY HAD REVEALED HOW MUCH THE INTERNATIONAL PETROLEUM COMPANIES HAD OPERATED AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF BOTH THE LDC'S AND DC'S THROUGH "MONOPOLY, MANIPULATION, AND MALPRACTICE."

5. TURNING TO POLITICAL AND MILITARY ISSUES HE SPOKE AGAINST LARGE EXPENDITURES ON ARMAMENTS BUT EXPRESSED GUYANA'S SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF THE ARAB STATES AND THE PEOPLE OF PALESTINE AND SAID THAT AS LONGA S CONDITIONS OF TENSION EXIST IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUED EXPENDITURES ON ARMAMENTS WILL BE INEVITABLE. HE APPLAUDED, HOWEVER, THE STEPS BEING TAKEN THERE INCLUDING THOSE BY THE SUPER POWERS AND OTHER MAJOR POWERS TO HELP BRING ABOUT A LIMITED PEACE. AT THE SAME TIME HE MENTIONED CUBA, SAYING THAT POLICIES OF ECONOMIC PRESSURE SHOULD COME TO AN END AND THAT THE TIME HAS ARRIVED FOR THE TERMINATION OF THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO ON CUBA, "A SISTER CARIBBEAN STATE THAT IS PLAYING SO POSITIVE A ROLL IN THE STRUGGLE OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD FOR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE."

6. WITH REGARDS TO THE NEGATIVE SIDE OF PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES RAMPHAL SAID THAT WHILE THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES COULD ADJUST, MANY LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GUYANA, COULD NOT WITHOUT EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE. HE WENT INTO SOME DETAIL ON IMPACT OF INCREASED PETROLEUM PRICES ON GUYANA'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS AND CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY VIABLE SOLUTION FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE LDC'S WAS THE REDISTRIBUTION OF SOME OPEC EARNINGS TO THE POORER LDC'S. HE WELCOMED THE STATEMENTS OF SOME WELL-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES THAT THEY WOULD NOT REDUCE, AND PERHAPS WOULD INCREASE, THEIR OWN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAME TIME.

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